

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3029

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS RW

SUBJ: GOR BEGINS TRIAL ANCIENT REGIME FIGURES

REF: A) KIGALI A-24; B) KIGALI A-104 OF 10/19/73

1. GOR CTTE. FOR PEACE/UNITY APPEALED JUNE 6 FOR CONTINUED NATIONAL CALM AND REQUESTED RESPONSIBLE SERVICES "DETECT AND DISCOURAGE DISTURBERS OF TRANQUILITY". THIS ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWED JUNE 7 BY GOR APPROVAL DECREE CONFIRMING AUGUST 27, 1973 DECISION CTTE. PEACE/UNITY TO CREATE COURT MARTIAL (WITHOU APPEAL) TO HANDLE STATE SECURITY CASES. TRIAL BEGAN JUNE 12 IN RUHENGARI WHERE MOST MEMBERS KAYIBANDA GOVERNMENT ACCUSED OF "PLOT AGAINST STATE JULY 4-5 1973" ARE IN PRISON OR UNDER HOUSE ARREST. COURT PRESIDENT IS MAJOR BONAVENTURE NTIBITURA; TWO ASSESSORS ARE SECURITY CHIEF LIZINDE AND LIEUTENANT NSHIMABAREZI; PROSECUTOR IS ATTGEN JOSEPH KAVARUGANDA.

2. EMB HAS LEARNED PRESIDENT KAYIBANDA STILL UNDER HOUSE ARREST RUHENGARI AND APPARENTLY NOT AMONG THOSE BEING TRIED. SOME IMPLICATED HAVE REPORTEDLY DIED IN PRISON OF DISEASE SINCE JULY 1973. BUT OTHERS

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SUCH AS FORMER SECSTATE CIVIL SERVICE CAPT BIZIMANA

CONSIDERED A CHIEF PLOTTER, RECENTLY SEEN BY ICRC REP
AND REPORTED IN GOOD MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH.

3. COMMENT: SINCE AUGUST 1973 DECISION CTTE. PEACE/
UNITY CREATE COURT MARTIAL, BEGINNING OF TRIAL HAS BEEN
IMMINENTLY EXPECTED. DELAY APPARENTLY DUE LENGTHY
INVESTIGATION JULY 5PLOT RESULTING IN CONTINUING
ARRESTS CERTAIN HIGHLY PLACED CIVIL AND MILITARY
FIGURES (REF A AND B) AND TO PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA'S
DEMAND FOR PROPER LEGAL PROCEDURES. PRESIDENT SUPREME
COURT WHO SWARE IN COURT MARTIAL MEMBERS TOLD EMB RECENTLY
THAT PRESIDENT HAD DEMANDED RIGOROUS ATTENTION TO LAWS AND
CAREFUL APPLICATION JUDICIAL PROCEDURES IN PREPARING THIS
AND OTHER HIGH CRIMINAL CASES.
FRITTS

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